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151. A liquid container according to Claim 43, further comprising an air vent portion for air communication between an inside of said main body and ambience.

152. A liquid container according to ~~Claim 43~~, wherein said holder has the ink jet head.

153. A liquid container according to Claim 87, wherein said holder has the ink jet head.--

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 4, 2001 (Paper No. 19). Claims 43 to 57, 60, 65, 68, 69, 70, 72 to 101, 116 to 133 and 150 to 153 are in the application, of which Claims 43, 73, 87, 116, 131 and 149 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Restriction Requirement originally entered in Paper No. 16 was repeated and in addition made final. In accordance with the Restriction Requirement, Claims 102 to 108, 134 to 138, 147 and 148 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without prejudice to Applicants' right to re-present these claims in a later-filed divisional.

The requirement for a substitute specification is noted. In response, a substitute specification is enclosed, incorporating changes requested by the Preliminary

Amendment dated February 6, 1997. The substitute specification is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(a) and hence does not include a statement regarding new matter, or a marked-up copy showing changes from the specification of record.

The only rejection of record is under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for undue multiplicity. According to the rejection, "86 claims is deemed to be an unreasonable number of claims ... ", with a requirement to limit the number of claims to 42.

Actually, before the above cancellation of claims, and excluding claims already withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the Restriction Requirement, the application contained 96 claims including multiply dependent claims, of which 9 claims were independent. In response to the rejection for undue multiplicity, the following actions have been taken: (1) Claim 1 and all of its dependent claims have been cancelled; (2) Claim 58 and many of its dependent claims have been cancelled, with uncancelled ones of the dependent claims being amended to depend from Claim 43; and (3) Claims 150 to 153 have been added to recite specific features from cancelled Claim 58 and from amended Claims 43 and 87. The net effect of these amendments is to reduce the number of claims from 96 with 9 independent claims to 74 with 7 independent claims. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the undue multiplicity rejection, at least to the extent that such a rejection requires a reduction in claims to 42. In this regard, given the nature of the invention, and the comprehensibility of this area of technology, together with the Examiner's familiarity thereof, it is not seen that 74 claims are excessive.

Should the rejection for undue multiplicity be maintained, then pursuant to MPEP § 2173.05(n), Applicants select the following claims for purposes of examination,

the number of which is not greater than the 42 claims required in the Office Action: Claims 43 to 57 and Claims 73 to 99.

Regarding a formal matter concerning Information Disclosure Statements, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate his consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement dated January 25, 2001, and of the Information Disclosure Statement dated May 9, 2001.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

43. (Amended) A liquid container for an ink jet recording apparatus, capable of containing liquid to be used by an ink jet head, wherein said liquid container is detachably mountable to a holder, [having the ink jet head,] said liquid container comprising:

a main body for containing the liquid;

a supplying port for supplying the liquid to the recording head, said supplying port being disposed in a portion which takes a bottom position during operation;

a first engaging portion, provided on a side of said main body, for engaging with a first locking portion of the holder;

a second engaging portion [which is resiliently displaceable] for engaging with a second locking portion of the holder; and

a supporting member for supporting said second engaging portion, provided on a side opposite from said side having said first engaging portion, said second engaging portion being resiliently displaceable and resiliently engageable with a second locking portion of the holder by said supporting member.

47. (Amended) A liquid container according to Claim 43, wherein the inside of said main body is divided into three portions, and said supplying port and [said]

an air vent are provided for each of the three portions, and wherein said three portions contain yellow, cyan and magenta inks, respectively.

60. (Amended) A liquid container according to Claim [58] 43, wherein said [latch lever] supporting member elastically moves toward said main body when said container is mounted or demounted relative to the holder.

65. (Amended) A liquid container according to Claim [58] 47, wherein said three chambers are disposed along a direction from said one side to said opposite side.

68. (Amended) A liquid container according to Claim [58] 150, wherein said latch lever is extended integrally from a neighborhood of a bottom portion of said main body, and is elastically movable about the neighborhood, and wherein said second engaging portion is disposed between the neighborhood and an operating portion provided at a free end of said latch lever.

69. (Amended) A liquid container according to Claim [58] 43, wherein when said liquid container is mounted to said holder, said second engaging portion is inside the second locking portion of the holder, and is not extended outwardly.

70. (Amended) A liquid container according to Claim [58 or] 69, wherein said second engaging portion is disposed outside said [latch lever] supporting member.

72. (Amended) A liquid container according to Claim [58] 43, wherein an inclined surface is provided at a corner portion between a bottom side, in operation, of said main body and said one side.

73. (Amended) A liquid container holder having an ink jet head, which is capable of holding a liquid container for containing ink to be used for recording, wherein said liquid container holder is provided with an opening for receiving the liquid container, said liquid container holder comprising:

 a tube for fluid communication with an ink supply port of said liquid container, provided at a portion taking a bottom position in operation;

 a first locking portion engageable with a first engaging portion provided on one side of said liquid container; and

 a second locking portion which is resiliently displaceable and resiliently engageable with a second engaging portion of a latch lever provided on a side of said liquid container opposite from said one side.

87. (Amended) A liquid container for an ink jet recording apparatus, capable of containing liquid to be used by an ink jet head, wherein said liquid container is detachably mountable to a holder, [having the ink jet head,] said liquid container comprising:

a main body for containing the liquid;

a supplying port for supplying the liquid to the recording head, said supplying port being disposed in a portion which takes a bottom position during operation;

an air vent portion for fluid communication between inside of said main body and ambience;

a first engaging portion, provided on a side of said main body, for engaging with a first locking portion of the holder; and

a latch lever having a second engaging portion which is resiliently displaceable and resiliently engageable with [the] a second locking portion of the holder by said latch lever;

wherein said supplying port is disposed between said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion.

122. (Amended) An ink container holder according to Claim 121, wherein the plurality of partition walls is two, and wherein one of the portions receives a one color ink container and the other receives a multi-color [containers] ink container.

131. (Amended) An ink container holder for holding an ink container for containing ink to be supplied to an ink jet head with which said ink container holder is integral, said ink container holder detachably mountable to a carriage which is reciprocally-movable, comprising:

a first operating portion for mounting and demounting said ink container to said ink container holder; and

a second operating portion for mounting and demounting said ink container holder to said carriage;

wherein said first operating portion and said second operating portion are provided in a same side relative to a movement direction of the carriage.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

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